

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
2 September 2004 (02.09.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/073897 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B08B 9/02**, 9/04, F28G 1/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/004793

(22) International Filing Date: 18 February 2004 (18.02.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/448,134 20 February 2003 (20.02.2003) US
60/448,135 20 February 2003 (20.02.2003) US
60/448,136 20 February 2003 (20.02.2003) US
10/779,500 14 February 2004 (14.02.2004) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE BOEING COMPANY [US/US]**; P.O. Box 3707, M/S 13-08, Seattle, WA 98124-2207 (US).

(72) Inventor: **WALTERS, William, O.**; 332 N. 74th Street, Seattle, WA 98103-5026 (US).

(74) Agent: **GALBRAITH, Ann, K.**; The Boeing Company, P.O. Box 3707, M/S 13-08, Seattle, WA 98124-2207 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2004/073897 A2

(54) Title: DEVICE TO CATCH AND RETRIEVE FOAM PELLETS

(57) Abstract: An apparatus for the rapid loading and launching of foam pellets for tube cleaning. The apparatus uses a block configuration to allow gravity feed and rapid firing of pellets into tubes. The apparatus includes a hopper feeder attachment which is self adjusting during pellet jams.